

REMARKS

The Official Action dated March 3, 2006, has been carefully considered.

Accordingly, the changes and remarks presented herewith are believed sufficient to place the present invention in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, Claims 9, 30, 44 and 46 have been amended and claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 11-14, 17, 19-22, 24-25, 27-28, 32-35, 37-38, 40, 41-42 and 48-49 have been cancelled. Claims 50-63 have been added. Support for the claims 50-51 may be found in original claims 1, 14, 16-22, 35, and 37-42. Since these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter and do not raise any new issues, entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and requested replacement sheets under 37 CFR 1.121 (d). Under separate cover, Applicant has submitted "Replacement Sheets" to replace the original drawing sheets. These replacement sheets do not involve any introduction of new matter. Accordingly entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 44 and 46 and claims 9, 10, 30 and 31 dependent thereon under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the subject matter. The Examiner asserted that the phrase "the satellite droplets are vertically offset from the main drops" is unclear. The Examiner's attention is directed to Page 14, line 14 to Page 15, line 26 of the present specification. In this embodiment, the nozzle openings are formed in an upwardly or downwardly directed bore to cause the satellite ink drops to be offset in the y-direction (as illustrated in Figures 19 and 20). To further clarify the present invention and aid one skilled in the art, Applicant has amended claims 9, 30, 44 and 46 to make it clear that the satellite drops are offset along a vertical axis from the main drops. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 9, 10, 30, 31, 44 and 46, as amended,

particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Whereby, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

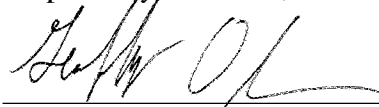
In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11-13, 16-19, 22, 24-25, 27, 28, 32-34, 37-40, 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Freire et al. (U.S. 2003/0179258). Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11-13, 16-19, 22, 24-25, 27, 28, 32-34, 37-40, 48 and 49 have now been cancelled, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Claims 20-21 and 41-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freire et al. Claims 20-21 and 41-42 have now been cancelled, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Finally, Applicant appreciates the Examiner allowing claims 45 and 47 and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14 and 35. Newly added claims 50-51 incorporate the limitations of claims 14 and 35, as well as original independent claim 1 and any intervening claim. As such, it is believed that claims 45, 47, 50 and 51, and any claims dependent thereon, as presently amended, are allowable.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Examiner's objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103, 112, and places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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